



THE HUSKIAN



OREGON'S FIRE STORM

BY: HAILEE PEDRAZA

Oregon fires have been ravaging our state for the second year in a row. People have been massively displaced, with over 2,000 people driven out of their homes just this year and hundreds of buildings damaged. We are steadily losing our gorgeous Oregon forests we all know and love, and in the past 2 years we have seen 1.2 million acres of natural land decimated by thousands of fires. Now this may seem only doom and gloom, but there



is hope. The recent heavy rainfall was a huge help in containing major fires. KOIN 6 News reports that officials have said the worst is over due to the rain quenching Oregon's summer drought. Oregon saw only 800,000 acres of land burned in 2021, which is much better than the one million acres we saw last year. The biggest fire we have seen this year has been the Bootleg fire in Southern Oregon. Triggered by lightning, the Bootleg fire burned nearly 414,000 acres of land and destroyed hundreds of buildings. The next major fire has been the Middle Fork Complex fire near Eugene. With over 30,000 acres burned and intense harmful air quality, this fire has greatly impacted the entire Northern Oregon Valley. However, we have been seeing clearer morn-



ings as the fires continue to be contained. Now as for everyone that has been displaced, there is help. There are tons of relief and donation centers across Oregon that

helps victims of natural disasters, one of these centers being the Cascade Relief Team. This non-profit organization is dedicated to helping displaced Oregonians during their time of need. By visiting cascaderelief.org you can donate to help the victims of the Bootleg Fire, as well as fill out a volunteer form they have on their website. There are many more organizations that put their donations towards helping our community heal.

The OCCU Foundation Fire Relief Fund is an organization that donates one-hundred percent of their profits to relief centers. Cascade Relief Team, Marion Polk Food Share, which is a food bank in Salem, and the Santiam Canyon Wildfire Relief Fund are just a few organizations they donate to. DevNW is a donation center dedicated to helping those displaced and in need of housing. Not only do they accept and donate profits to those in need, they also give financial assistance to anyone in need of housing or simply working out funds. The organization

**Featured in
this Issue:**

**Homecoming
2020**
page 3

*Fall
Sports*

pages 17-20



**THE
HUSKY
KITCHEN**

ON PAGE 9

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CONTINUED ON PG 7

History of Veterans Day

BY: IVY DEWITTE

Most of our holidays are fun celebrations of religious significance like Christmas and Easter, but two of our holidays are national remembrances of those who have served in our Armed Forces. Memorial Day, which was created after the Civil War, honors those who have died in the service of our country. Veterans Day honors all of those, living or dead, who have served, but that wasn't always the case.

On July 28th, 1914 the Great War broke out in Europe. Today we call this conflict World War I. The war was fought between the Allies, Britain, France, Russia, and later The United States, and their opponents, the Central Powers, Germany, Austria, and Ottoman Empire. The war was the first to be fought around the world and involved scores of nations. When the dust finally settled, over 20 million people were dead, and the devastation left a world in sorrow. The war ended when an armistice, or cease fire, was agreed to take place on the 11th hour, of the 11th day, in the 11th month of 1918. By 1919 this date became known as Armistice Day and became one of the few holiday celebrated by most of the countries of the world.

The United States made Armistice Day a national day of observance in 1926, but it didn't become a national holiday until 12 years later in 1938. It is one of the few national holidays that isn't observed on a Friday or Monday because of the significance of the date. As the war ended on November 11th, that is our day of remembrance. Today, the name Armistice Day would have still been known if it weren't for the outbreak of World War II. After World War II, there was a movement to honor the veteran of this latest great war, without forgetting about the people who service in the first one. In 1947 in Birmingham, Alabama, a World War II veteran by the name of Raymond Weeks organized National Veterans Day. It was a parade along with some festivities to honor all veterans. The parade was celebrated on Armistice Day. Not too long after, U.S. Representative Edward Rees of Kansas created a bill to rename November 11th as Veterans Day. The bill was passed and signed into law by President Dwight Eisenhower in 1954, who was a veteran of both World War I and World War II.

Veterans Day is more than just a day off of school or work. This day was created to show our respect toward all of the veterans of the world. In some countries like Belgium and France, Veterans Day is known to as Remembrance Day. For us here in the United States, it is a day to give your respect towards all of the veterans who have fought and served to protect the freedoms we all cherish and enjoy.



THANKYOU VETERANS

FEATURES

Homecoming 2021

BY: JENNA WOLTHUIS

Homecoming this year has lifted the spirits of the students and is definitely one to remember through the years. Packed with fun activities and dress up days, the week quickly became fun for all the students at school. Homecoming brings the opportunity for athletes to nominate outstanding athletes for the homecoming court. Our court members this year

were Zoe Erevia, Jenna Wolthuis, Iris Erickson, Chloe Tyler, Isabel Sayer, Avery Nelson, Brooke Burke, Emma McCubbins, Mason Lopez, Caleb Christman, Charlie Crawford, Tucker Weld, Kaden Zajic, Evan Towry, Dakota Seiber, and Jacob Siemenski.

We kicked off the week with a pink out dress up day, for breast cancer aware-



ness. Pink tutus, leggings, hats, shoes, socks and more were seen in the hallways. That night we had He-man volleyball, which the seniors won by a narrow margin after tough opposition from the junior team. Some of the Sweet Home High School teachers also formed a team to play against the seniors, and were completely annihilated within minutes. Mr. Thorpe can in fact reach the top of the net if anyone was wondering.

Tuesday was class color day; seniors wore green, juniors wore yellow, sophomores wore black and freshmen wore white. Sophomores had the biggest group because everyone wears black anyways. However, seniors took the cake because Taylor Claire had a green wig along with Jenna Wolthuis and Meagan Baham who adorned green capes coming out of their green socks.

Wednesday was the busiest day of the week; the Court was being presented, Halloween pajamas were being worn, and powderpuff football was happening that evening. The presentation of the court was watched by the whole school via youtube live due to Covid restrictions. There were some pretty awesome pajamas worn and Princess Isabel Sayer even wore her crown with her pajamas. Powderpuff football was a tough match between the freshman-senior team and the sophomore-junior team. The freshman-senior team emerged victorious thanks to Maddie Harris, Amelia Sullens, and Chloe Fairchild. However, a shout out for Brooke Burke is much needed, as she had some amazing plays for the sophomore-junior team.

Friday was the homecoming football game, in which the Sweet Home Huskies played the Stayton Eagles. Unfortunately they lost 28-42, but good

CONTINUED ON PG 7

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Local Wild Turkeys

BY: SAMUEL ADAMS

In our neighboring town of Lebanon, a new mascot has emerged, the wild turkey. A giant flock of these birds has taken up residence in Lebanon, and not only the citizens of Lebanon, but people all over America have become fans of this flock. Although many people have come to love them, many others find them to be a nuisance. Many creative ideas have surfaced to fix the issues that these birds create. From bumper stickers to relocation programs, everything has been tried, but the birds still remain. They have brought attention and tourists to Lebanon and are like pets to some of the residents; so should we get rid of them?

At first the wild turkeys were of no interest to the town as a whole and only held some value in the eyes of a small number of Lebanon residents, but over time their pesky behavior and continual presence brought them both positive and negative attention. Some people began to adore the turkeys, and the birds even got their own Facebook page, Where in the World are the Wild Turkeys in Lebanon, Oregon. However, others saw them as pests and wanted to get rid of them. Wild turkeys can not only be loud, but also dangerous to property. They can destroy gardens, scratch cars, and make a mess in your yard. People are dangerous to them as well, attacking them on purpose or accidentally hitting them with cars. While some people accepted the risks, the state eventually made a plan to relocate them out of the city. This program proved to be expensive and ineffective, and the effort put into it slowly died down.

With the birds staying, Lebanon made the most of it and started to publicize the flock. Before the turkeys, Lebanon did not have many souvenirs, so the addition of a bumper sticker featuring the birds was a welcome change for tourists. These stickers serve as a reminder to watch out for the birds when you are driving in Lebanon, saying, "I break for Lebanon tur-



CONTINUE ON PG. 7



Strange Phobias

BY: IVY DEWITTE

Phobias: "an extreme or irrational fear of, or aversion to something." The word phobia comes from Greek mythology and their god of fear, named Phobos. Phobos was often worshipped before a battle or war, to instill fear into the enemy. Today, we use the word to describe any type of fear that people may have. According to John Hopkins Medical University, "About 19 million Americans have one or more phobias." The ages that tend to have phobias are from 15-20 and tend to affect men and women equally. The most common phobias are things like fear of public speaking, but there are some very strange and unusual fears out there. First on our list of strange phobias, is also the longest. It's Hexakosioihexekontahexaphobia. This fear may be hard to pronounce, but there is some rationality to it. It is a fear of the mark of the Devil, the

number 666. Most might not know about the Devil and the number 666, but in Christianity this is the sign that the Devil, or Anti-Christ, will have when he appears on Earth. Those who have this phobia are constantly looking for combinations of the numbers 666, so that they can stay away from the Evil One. When you look at it this way, maybe this fear isn't so strange after all?

The next strange fear on the list is: Hylophobia. This is the fear of trees and woodlands. This fear would be inconvenient for someone who lives either in or near the woods. Take Sweet Home, Oregon for instance; we are full of trees! Speaking of fears, the next phobia on the list is: Phobophobia. Phobophobia is exactly as it sounds; the fear of having a fear. That is right; there is a phobia of having phobias, kind of strange. When it is thought about though, it really isn't that strange. To have the fear of having a fear is pretty normal. Most people don't want to be afraid, but they are too busy thinking about what might scare them to notice that they are just overreacting.

In all seriousness phobias are real issues in our everyday lives, and can affect the mentality of every living being. Just take Arachibutyrophobia for example. This is the fear of having peanut-butter stuck to the roof of your mouth; to be stuck in this type of a situation would cause some serious mental stress. Nobody wants to be caught looking like a dog smacking their lips. The struggle is real, and once again, so are these fears.

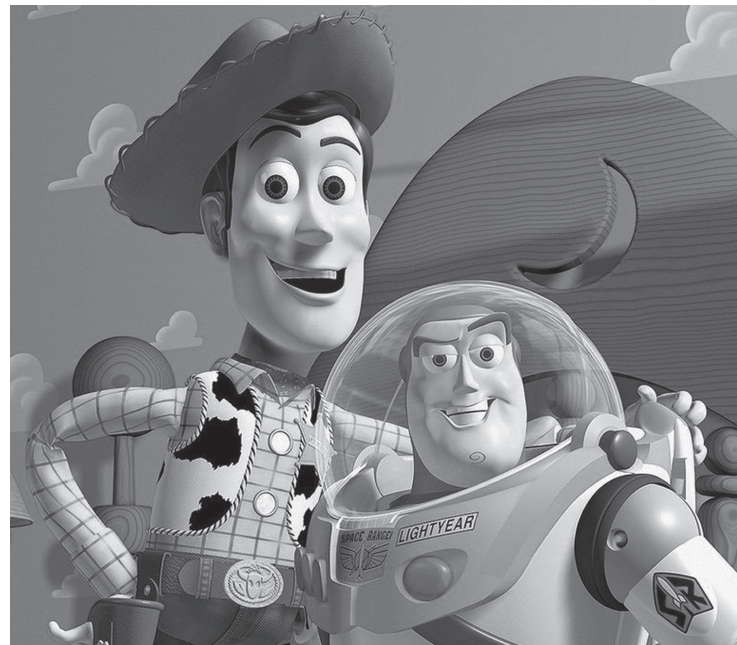
Phobias are not just something you pick up from one little incident, phobias have a process that they go through, and it all starts off with a fear. We can all relate to phobias because each of us has something that we are afraid of, although that fear might not be as strong as a full phobia. If you feel that you have a phobia and are struggling with it, you can get help by calling Linn County Mental Health at 541-367-3888.

This Week in History: November 22nd-25th

BY: SHAYLA SANDERS

November 22, 1995

Toy Story, a beloved childhood film for both 90's and 2000's kids alike, was the first entirely computer-animated feature film and Pixar's first full length movie. Pixar's first film was groundbreaking, retrieving interest from film animators, game designers, and robotics engineers for the life that was brought into the animated characters. While the film may look quite rough to us today, it was top-dollar animation when it was released. The film's budget was \$30 million and within the first day of its theatrical release it made \$4,805,397. Today the box office revenue for Toy Story is over \$370 million.



November 23, 1992

The IBM Simon Personal Communicator (simply known as IBM Simon), is considered the first true smartphone, though the term wasn't coined until 1995. Not only was it the first smartphone, the IBM Simon was also the first digital personal assistant that could make phone calls. The IBM Simon's prototype, code named "Sweetspot", was at COMDEX, a computer and technology trade



show in Las Vegas on November 23rd, 1992. The demonstration of the prototype was so successful that the next day USA Today featured a photo of Frank Canova, the inventor of the smartphone, displaying Sweetspot. Due to the success, IBM began working on the commercial product that would be available for purchase. November of the next year the device was publicly debuted at the Wireless World Conference, though the device wasn't available for commercial purchase until August of 1994 due to software errors. Even though the product was only on the market for six months, it sold 50,000 units. The discontinuation was due to factors such as quick battery drainage, wireless carriers weren't prepared to deal with how much data the device required, and the high price of about \$900 that it fetched. Even though it ultimately failed, the IBM Simon was still

the first smartphone, and while years ahead of its time, paved the way for the compact computers we carry around today.

November 24, 1429

The Siege of La Charité began on November 24th, 1429, incited by Charles VII to Joan of Arc after the town was seized by warlord Perrinet Gressard in 1423, and ended on December 25th of the same year. La Charité was strongly fortified and well prepared for the siege, matched up against Joan's poorly equipped forces. Even with requested supplies and assistance from Bourges and Orleans, the siege was abandoned after a month's struggle and bad weather.



November 25, 1863

Major General Ulysses S. Grant led an assault on Missionary Ridge on November 25th, 1863, against the Confederate Army in Tennessee. Missionary Ridge was a high point outside of Chattanooga that was a good position for viewing the city. The Union took the brunt of casualties and wounded. 4,146 Confederate men were captured or went missing and 40 Confederate cannons were also captured, resulting in an overall Union victory.

How to Get Organized and Start School Strong

BY: SAMUEL ADAMS

After two years of distance learning, we finally have the option to go back to full-time, in-person school. While it is exciting to be one step closer to normal, it also comes with many challenges. Many students are getting jobs and getting involved in sports. This creates a hectic schedule that is hard to keep up with. However, by utilizing certain tricks a student can turn a stressful schedule into a fun high school experience. From proper nutrition to using a planner, there are many ways to keep up with school and hobbies without being drained.

Starting school can be hard, but there are some ways to ease the stress. It is important to both keep up on your work and take care of your mental health. Setting aside time after school to catch up on work and study topics that you are confused about can help you to succeed in school the next day. This is especially true if you have a test coming up or if you're behind. It helps to write down what you have to do, and rank the importance of each assignment. Do the work that is hard or late before the small assignments due later on. Think about it and keep track, that way you don't get overwhelmed by work. Also, set up a daily schedule and routine. Get up at the same time every day and set aside time to do your work.

Coming back to school in person is amazing and I am sure that many of us are grateful for the opportunity to be out of the house and be around other people. School still poses many challenges, but now we have the help of teachers and peers, so we do not have to overcome any of these struggles alone. Don't be afraid to ask your teachers and classmates for help! They are here to help you succeed and support you.

Being in school full time takes a lot of strength and energy, so it is important to get enough sleep, eat enough food, and let your mind have some down time. Being either tired or hungry can distract you from your school work. Having a balanced diet, sleep schedule, and time to rest your mind can help you stay awake and focused in class. Many studies have shown the negative effects of not sleeping, particularly that not getting enough sleep decreases academic performance.

While schoolwork is important and should be a priority, your mental health is also a priority. One way to improve your

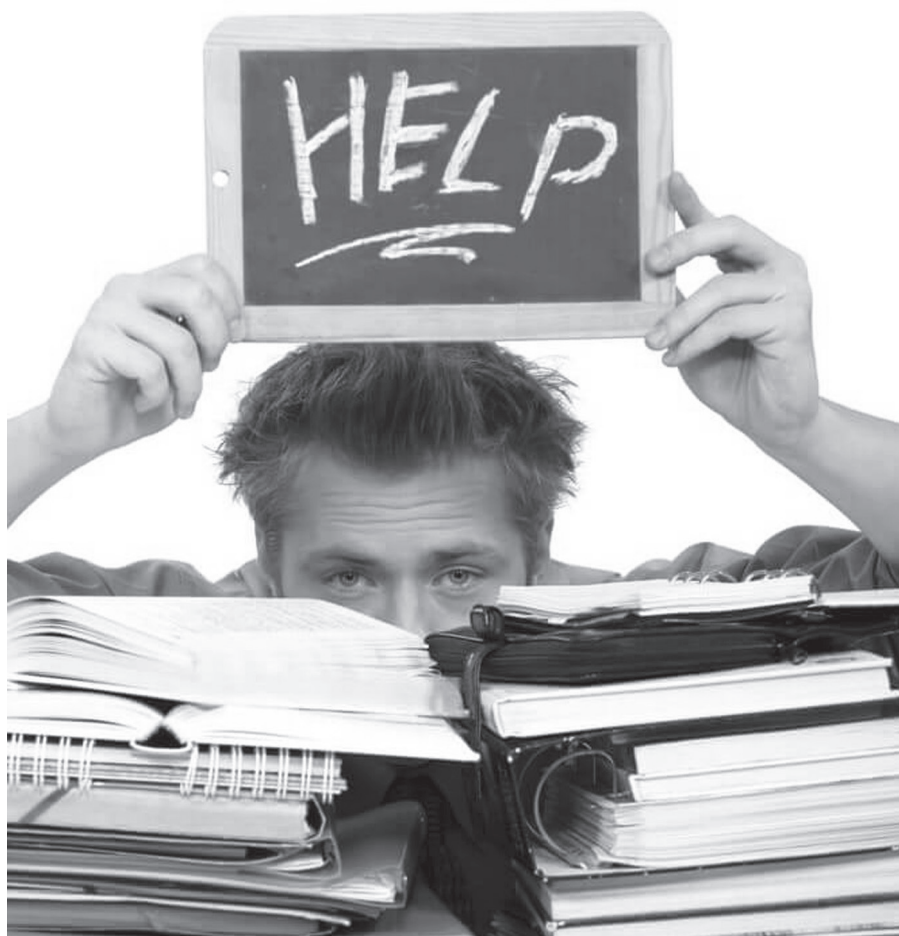
mental health is meditation. An effective meditation strategy is imagery. Sit down somewhere comfortable, and imagine a place that makes you feel happy, safe, or calm. Essentially, it is a very simple technique that requires you to imagine you are in a place that relaxes you, then you can expand the idea from there. Another strategy is closing your eyes and breathing in and out slowly, trying not to think about your work or anything else. One version of this is breathing in for three seconds, holding your breath for three, and letting it out for

three. After doing this a couple of times, change the out-breath to four seconds, and so on until you reach six. Then slowly open your eyes and get back to work. There are a ton of techniques like this, so try them out and see what works for you. According to Harvard's article Making Time for Mindfulness, techniques like this can reduce stress, and can help you stay focused and positive during school work. Even if you meditate for just five minutes a day, it can help you get back on track.

Unfortunately, a big issue in schools is bullying, and while it may not seem as dramatic as it used to, it can still have a profound impact on people. In the end, the easiest way to deal with bullying is to report it. It may seem like nothing is done when you do, but there are some amazing teachers and staff that have helped with

a lot of bullying issues in this school, so if you search around you will probably find one of them! In the meantime, try asking for help from your friends, or try to communicate with the bully. Most bullies may not be open to communication, but if there was just a misunderstanding you will be grateful that you had the courage to work with them to fix it. Your friends or people that have been nice to you will probably help you if they know that you are having problems with someone. If you are honest with these people, and tell them what you are going through, you may be able to find a lot of love and support.

Overall, the start of this school year is more difficult and more exciting than any other. We have had to deal with a huge transition, and after two years of distance learning, getting back in the groove can be hard, but there are so many rewards if we do our best. All of us have the potential to do amazing things this year, hopefully these tips and tricks can help us. Have an amazing school year!



Local Wild Turkeys

keys”, but they are also just a comedic bumper sticker meant to make people laugh. The stickers quickly caught on outside of Lebanon. Now, people all across the country come to Lebanon to get one of the bumper stickers, and some have even requested having some sent to them. It has brought more income to Lebanon, and has put them on the map, so the residents are complaining less and less about the birds.

Wild animals can be cool and entertaining, and it is amazing to be able to walk into Lebanon and see this group of turkeys walking around like they would in the wild. Not only have the birds provided entertainment for the residents of Lebanon, but they have also brought attention to the town. Some people might have an issue with the birds, but it seems that they are there to stay. No relocation plan has worked so far and the birds are very happy staying where they are. If you would like to see them, hop online and go to their Facebook page, or go look for them in Lebanon. If you want one of the bumper stickers, go to the Lebanon Chamber of Commerce and pick one up for a dollar fifty. Remember, break for Lebanon turkeys!



Canned Food and Penny Drive

BY: JENNA WOLTHUIS

Thanksgiving is a wonderful time of year, when we gather with family and friends to give thanks for our many blessings in life. It is traditional to prepare a big meal, which includes foods such as turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, rolls, and more. However, there are many in our community that cannot afford that meal. That is why Sweet Home High School holds the Canned Food and Penny Drive; a competition to see which class can bring in the most cans of food and the most change.

According to a 2019 survey, nearly 12 percent of all the students in the Sweet Home School District are homeless. These numbers continue to rise, and with the outbreak of Covid-19 in early 2020, finances have become even harder. The typical American Thanksgiving costs on average \$46.90 dollars for a family of four.

The Canned Food and Penny Drive began the last week of October, and is a fun competition between classes that turns into a gift for those around our community. If you have any extra cans of food, there are bins at the front of the school you can drop them off in. There are also buckets in the office where you can put any loose change. Good luck to all the classes and may the best class win!



Oregon's Fire Storm

FROM PG. 1

has an office in Lane, Marion, Clackamas, and Linn-Benton counties. The LOVEfirst Disaster Relief Center is a Springfield based community oriented organization that provides immediate and long-term help for victims of our disastrous summer fires. Since its opening last year, LOVEfirst has delivered an estimated one million pounds of goods to the Holiday Farm Fire survivors. They have information on Middle Fork Complex evacuations, donation and volunteer services, and they even have a relief shelter for those in need of housing. All of these organizations are dedicated towards keeping our community alive and intact.

In our time of need, Oregonians have come together and proven to show love, dedication, and resilience in the face of every natural disaster. Thank you to everyone who volunteered during these troubling times, and those who continue to have a passion for our community. Let us keep Oregon forests green!

Homecoming

FROM PG. 3

thing we had an amazing halftime show! Sweet Home cheer put on a performance and then the homecoming court was introduced in front of the whole crowd. During halftime, Iris Erickson and Mason Lopez were crowned queen and king of the court.

Saturday brought the last event of the week; the homecoming dance. Despite having to be outside in the cold it was fun for all who attended. Shout out to Jeff Parker and Josh Darwood for providing heaters to make sure those who weren't dancing hard enough could stay warm.

A huge thank you to the Sweet Home High School leadership class for setting everything up and making sure everything ran smoothly despite Mr. Rosa being in quarantine. The president of the class, Zoe Opperman, and the Vice President Isabel Sayer took the pressure in stride and made sure everyone was doing their jobs. Zoe Opperman stated, "I'm really proud of how everyone adapted to what was happening because we had to deal with a lot of things that typically wouldn't happen in a normal year."

Homecoming next year will be just as awesome if not more awesome than this year. Homecoming has always been a highlight of our high school experience and this year was no exception. Our next big event will be the Canned Food Drive and Penny Drive for those in need around our community. But until then keep doing well in your classes and keep having fun in school!

ODD ANIMALS

BY: SHAYLA SANDERS

The numbat is a rather striking insectivorous marsupial native to Australia. It is a very small animal, ranging from 14-18 inches in length, including their bushy tail, and typically weigh between 9-25 ounces. Other than their intriguing markings, something else that makes the numbat stick out against other marsupials is that it is the only marsupial without a pouch and one of two diurnal marsupial species, meaning that it is active during the day rather than at night, the other being the echidna, a small creature that resembles a spiky mole with a hedgehog face. This primal-looking squirrel's closest relative is the thylacine, or Tasmanian Tiger, which isn't much of a surprise since the thylacine looks like a large numbat mixed with a dog.

The conservation status for this little marsupial is currently endangered, with less than 1,000 members in the wild, due to predators and habitat loss. In 1855 the European red fox was introduced to Australia for recreational hunting, and while they may have helped control the exploding rabbit population, they also took a toll on the population of the native numbat. When invasive species are introduced they tend to quickly thrive in their new environment and make tough competition out of the native species. Unfortunately for the fox, a way to poison them without harming native species was derived, helping with the numbat population. Another predator that has made numbats a main course are feral cats. Feral cats have become a large threat in Australia, causing the extinction of over one hundred native species. They have become so much of a problem that it is twenty times more likely for wildlife to encounter a feral cat than a native predator. Unlike the native predators of Australia, feral cats aren't very picky about what they eat and will kill almost anything that's small enough. The overwhelming population of feral cats is estimated to be anywhere from 2-6 million, compared to the 2.7 million domestic cats that live on the continent. They have adapted to every part of Australia and can essentially be found anywhere, which spells major bad news for all small native species, especially the endangered ones like the numbat. Feral cat control has been put in place in Australia and since then the numbat numbers have increased. Habitat loss is due



to farming, logging, mining, homes, and wildfires, which have been especially critical on the numbats not only due to the destruction of their refuges, but also the reduction of termites, the numbat's exclusive diet, their average daily consumption of termites being about 20,000 and one of the reasons why numbats are solitary animals. Habitat loss and predators have contributed to the reduction of the numbat's range by 99%. Numbats used to be found all over the continent, but are now only found in the Dryandra Woodland and Perup Nature Reserve. Luckily for them, the Australian Wildlife Conservancy has taken steps in making a breeding program

to help reintroduce numbats to their former home ranges. The efforts of the program have been so good that as of December 2019 numbats were reintroduced to central Australia for the first time in 60 years.

While you may not have heard about this queer creature you now know a little bit about one of Australia's special marsupials that is on the verge of extinction. It appears their population may be slowly

recovering, thanks to the help of some caring conservationists who don't want to see another one of Australia's native species disappear forever. Here's to hoping that we will be able to have these cute little guys around for many more decades to come.

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The Husky Kitchen



BY: IVY DEWITTE

It is that time of year again. The trees leaves are changing colors, the weather is getting chilly, and winter is just peeking around the corner. You step outside and take a deep breath in of that fall scent, and think, "What could be any better than a pumpkin pie?" Well, how about a pumpkin cheese cake!

I don't know about you fall lovers, but the taste and smell of pumpkin sends me straight home. Fall could not be fall without out it. I know for some, pumpkin may not be your favorite flavor, but the great thing about making your very own personal cheesecake is that you can add as much pumpkin in as wanted. Don't worry about the cream cheese making a heavy desert, once you bake it and take the first bite all you will be thinking about is that fall flavor that you've been seeking all year.

Pumpkin Cheesecake Recipe:

Crust:

- 2 cups of flour
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of sugar
- 8 Tbsp. of butter chilled
- 1 teaspoon of Baking powder
- 1 large egg
- $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. of salt
- 2 Tbsp. of milk

While preparing the crust, turn the oven on to 350.

Take and mix the flour sugar, baking powder, and salt together. Then take and cut the butter into $\frac{1}{4}$ tbsp pieces; take a pastry blender or a fork, and blend the mixed dry ingredients with the butter. After a couple moments of blending, add the egg, and pulse a couple of times. You will lastly add the milk. Once the wet ingredients have been blended with the dry ingredients, and have created what appears to be crumbles of dough, then put into your cheesecake pan, and press it down thin.

Once the crust is made, and pressed on the cheesecake pan, then let the crust chill for 10 minutes in the fridge, and then bake for 10-12 minutes at 350 until golden brown.

Filling:

- 8 ounces of plain cream cheese
- 1- $\frac{1}{4}$ cups of sugar
- 1 tablespoon of lemon juice
- 2 teaspoons of vanilla extract
- 3 large eggs, room temperature, and lightly beaten
- Pumpkin puree (8 oz. or 1 cup)

First, add the sugar and cream cheese together; take a hand mixer and mix until there is no more sugar clumps. Add in the pumpkin puree, and then add in lemon juice and vanilla. Add the eggs on low until combined.

Once your mixture has been made, pour the cheesecake into the cheesecake pan, and fill it almost to the top.

Then bake at 350 for 40-45 minutes or until it is not jiggly on the outside and semi jiggly in the center. Let it cool for an hour, and stick it in the fridge. I recommend it to be refrigerated for at least 5 hours; it helps with the firmness of the cake. Now add some whip cream, and enjoy the rest of your fall!





Director on the Rise: Jordan Peele

FAITH BAKER

Best known for directing psychological horror films and starring in comedy television, Jordan Peele has made a name for himself as one of the most successful African-American directors of modern cinema.

He was born February 21, 1979, in New York City then grew up in Manhattan. In 1997 Peele graduated from a private high school then went on to Sarah Lawrence College. He majored in puppetry and planned to graduate in

2001, however he dropped out two years later to start a comedy duo with his classmate from Sarah Lawrence, Rebecca Drysdale; a risky decision that would change his career path for the better. He and Drysdale moved to Chicago, Illinois to perform in their duo 'Two White Guys'. In 2003 he started to perform on the comedy sketch television series MADtv. This was where he met one of his closest colleagues, Keegan-Michael Key, whom he continued to work with throughout his career. He remained on the show for roughly 5 years, gaining a small media following in the process.

In 2012 Peele began collaborating with Keegan-Michael Key in the comedy central show, Key & Peele, which many know him from. On this show they wrote comedy sketches that featured ethnic stereotypes, culture, and race relations. Key & Peele won a Peabody Award and two Primetime Emmy Awards for their work. They both continued to act on the show until 2015. After that Peele began his directing career, starting with the film "Get Out".

"Get Out" is a psychological horror film that was released in 2017 about an African-American man named Chris, played by Daniel Kaluuya, who visits his white girlfriend Rose's family for the first time and, as the trip goes on, he discovers that the family has many disturbing secrets. This film was Peele's directing debut and was very successful, making over \$255 million dollars at the box office. One of the most fitting reviews came from John DeFore in The Hollywood Reporter; he said "The violence is deeply satisfying, the twists delightful." The film won a total of 17 awards and 39 major nominations during 2018. What resonated with fans the most were Peele's outstanding close up scenes. In one scene Chris is pressured to be hypnotized by Rose's mother, a therapist, disguised as an attempt to destroy his smoking habit. While under the hypnosis, Chris falls into the "Sunken Place", which gives her complete control over him. As he sits in the chair, falling into the "Sunken Place", Chris stares into the eyes of the viewer with his shocked, fearful and tear-covered expression.

After "Get Out", Peele officially retired from acting and decided to focus on directing full time. In 2019 he wrote and directed the movie "Us", another psychological thriller. Peele's background in comedy returns perfectly in this film, where even in high tension scenes the comedy relief is enjoyable. "Us" wouldn't have been the same without Gabe Wilson cracking jokes at the worst times. With the film's freakish and shocking plotline it was a huge success for Peele, making over \$255 million dollars worldwide. The feature was awarded with "Best Film" by the African-American Film Critics Association and will no doubt soon be a classic horror film.

Peele continues to write and direct horror films and has obtained many media supporters. His upcoming film "Nope" is predicted to be released in July of 2022 and will star Daniel Kaluuya, Keke Palmer, and Steven Yeun. Peele has been shy with clues to the film, however just like the rest of his films, will surely be a success.



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Ominous Encounter

BY: SAMUEL ADAMS

There was a steady rushing sound of water falling to the rocks below. The soft, almost silent, patter of raindrops against the rusty-hued trail and the dark red planks of the stairs and platform. Jackson stood on the platform, looking forward into the crystal sheet of water that was flowing down to meet the pool below, where it fell with a gentle, continual splash. He breathed in the smell of the earthy, wet forest around him. He listened to the sounds of the water, the wind in the trees, and the rain. The whole world both stood still and moved on restlessly. The way the wind moved the trees and the water surged on seemed eternal, yet something had changed. Jackson could feel it. Many trees had already exchanged their regal emerald summer leaves for crisp, golden, scarlet, and vermilion-shaded ones. He was dressed in a yellow plaid shirt and jeans, blending in with the fall theme of his surroundings. He knew it was Autumn, but he could not remember the date. Before he could ponder this anomaly, he heard laughter, bubbling like a spring brook, quickly rolling up the trail. He turned his head to look across the railing towards the trail. Two teenagers and a young girl were walking up. As the group approached they saw him, and each of them had an odd feeling that something about him seemed out of place. The younger girl was about eight and was wearing a generic-looking black cat costume, “A Halloween costume”, Jackson assumed, as the little girl was also carrying a pumpkin-shaped plastic basket. One of the teenagers was an older girl, and the other was a slightly younger boy. Both were wearing dark, comfortable clothing. “So, it is Halloween...” Jackson thought. How could he have not known that? It was getting dark, and he was starting to worry. Normally his parents would be furious if he was out this late and he didn’t go out much. However, it was a holiday. He thought it was fairly normal for him to be out on his own during a holiday, instead of with his peers, but he had an odd urge to get home to his family. Deciding to talk to the group that was now walking onto the platform, Jackson called out to them and waved. “Hey! What’s up?” The other boy said. He seemed friendly. Jackson paused before responding, momentarily trying to recall the rest of his day. It seemed that he had been here a long, long time. He must have come here this morning and lost track of time or fell asleep, he thought. “Fine. I came here earlier, and I must have lost track of time or something.” He paused, and looked nervously at the group of people, “I don’t know how I am gonna walk home before midnight, though.” He looked anxiously at the ground while he waited for a reply.



Overhearing him, the older girl said, “Do you need a ride?” Jackson glanced up quickly, then, gazing back down at his shoes, he mumbled “Yeah, kind of.” “Wecangiveyouarideorsomething”, the other boy said to Jackson. Jackson said thanks, not taking his gaze from his shoes. He was grateful, but he was too shy to show these strangers how he felt. “Also,” the other boy said to Jackson, “I have not seen you around the school before. Can I ask what your name is?” “Jackson, and thank you so much for offering me a ride.” He finally replied, after taking a deep breath, deciding to try to be friendly. “Yeah, of course. It’s getting late, we should probably head back into town. Oh, my name is John by the way.” Jackson just smiled and nodded in reply. Silence fell over them for several uncomfortable moments, before the older of the two girls finally resolved to break it. “Hi, my name is Kaytlin.” She smiled, and Jackson responded by telling Kaytlin it was nice to meet her. Then, they walked back down the steps and into the forest, the younger girl being the first to leave. Once they got to the parking lot and he had looked around, Jackson felt a sharp jolt of alarm. He could not place what the alarm was caused by. Looking around, Jackson noticed that everything was draped with a layer of milky darkness that was slowly deepening as the night drew closer. “This time of year is spooky,” Jackson thought. They led him to their car, and he got in the back with the little girl, who greeted him and then proceeded to ignore him as she excitedly went through her basket of candy. He looked around himself and felt as uneasy as he had outside, possibly more so.

“What is your address?” Kaytlin asked. “3857 Hearse Street.” Jackson replied, before falling silent for the rest of the trip. Everyone else in the car talked to each other happily, but Jackson had gone silent and sunk into his seat, dying to get home. No one else noticed, and it was not long before they pulled up the street Jackson lived on. When they arrived, Jackson nearly sprang out of the car. Everyone was busy telling him goodbye, and Jackson promised to look

for them at school. By the time that they turned to look at his house again, he was already on his way to the door. Confusion swept through the car instantly, and all three of them stared at the place his house had been a couple of seconds ago. Jackson happily ran up to the house, as the house slowly started to fade away. As he went, he started to disappear as well. Within a few more moments, the house was no longer a house, it was a plot of empty land. They never found Jackson at school, and they never told a soul about the mysterious boy they gave a ride home to on Halloween.



CHRISTMAS FILMS



BY: FAITH BAKER

Christmas is right around the corner and festive films are always compelling during this time. With movie topics ranging from classic Christmas tales, to the ruining of the holiday, every film on this list is a must see for celebrating this year.

How *The Grinch Stole Christmas*, released in 2000, needs no introduction. Based on *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas*, written by Dr. Seuss, the film is a fun adaptation of the book. It stars a nasty Grinch who has a terrible history with Christmas and will stop at nothing to destroy the holiday and the spirit of every Who in Whoville. Jim Carrey's performance captures the Grinch's sinful personality, while also making him amusing. The Grinch is so charming because he's so obviously in the wrong, but we can't help but adore his blatant and shameless persona.

The Muppets Christmas Carol, released in 1992, is a twist on the classic Christmas Carol story, only featuring and narrated by The Muppets. The Muppets are a group of puppets each with individual personalities and stories created by director Jim Henson in 1976. Michael Caine plays a grumpy Ebenezer Scrooge and strangely it's how seriously he takes the role that makes the film so entertaining. There are plenty of jokes and songs, but it's Michael Caine's serious performance that makes the movie balanced. This movie is arguably more enjoyable than any other version of the Christmas Carol story.

In 2003 Will Ferrell starred as Buddy in the family Christmas movie, *Elf*. The story of *Elf* is one of a man who was orphaned as a child and miraculously raised as one of Santa's helpers. Regardless of the obvious size difference, when Buddy finds out

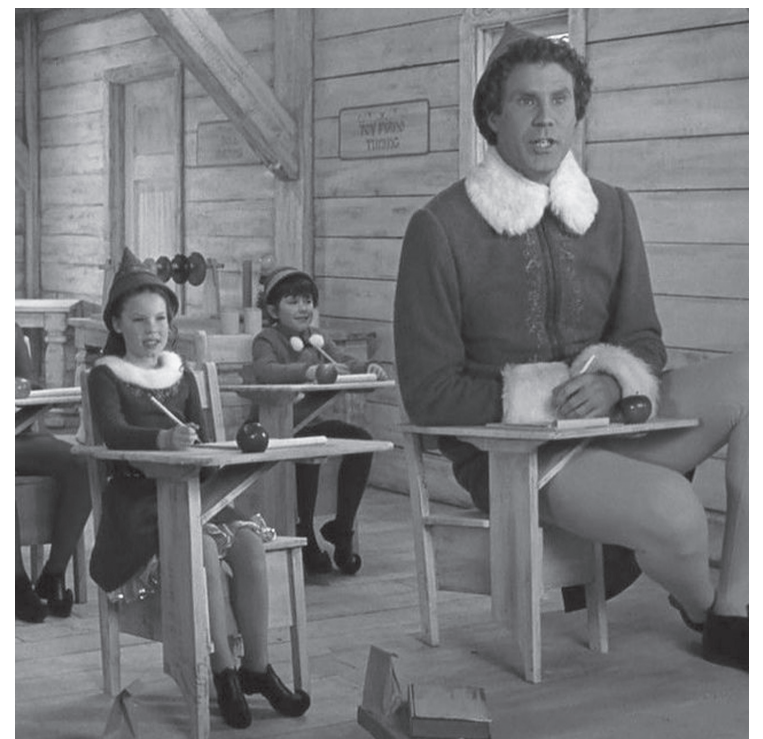
he isn't an elf it shocks him deeply and he sets out to New York City to find his real father. But Buddy is an outlier in New York, and no one takes him seriously. Even when the worst things happen to Buddy, he's always in a good mood and trying to make others happy, and that's why he is so admirable. His aura just makes the whole movie feel so much more amusing, not to mention that he is portrayed by an outstanding comedic actor. With the weird plotline and Will Ferrell's hilarious performance, this movie is undoubtedly perfect for families and friends.

Home Alone is a classic movie about a boy who is accidentally left home on Christmas Eve and defends his house from robbers on his own using ridiculous traps. This movie was released in 1990 and starred one of the most famous child actors of the 90's, Macaulay Culkin who plays the

adorable Kevin McCallister. This movie is another family-friendly comedy that is humorous for all ages, despite it being targeted for younger audiences. Many of the scenes consist of the child genius toying with the robbers with absurd schemes. These scenes are all independently clever, and even though they're often unbelievable, they're still entertaining and enjoyable.

Released in 1994 and starring Tim Allen, *The Santa Clause*, is another funny Christmas film with an intriguing plot line. On Christmas Eve, Scott Calvin accidentally knocks a man dressed in a Santa suit off the roof top and when he reaches the man, he disappears leaving a business card. Just by reading the card Scott starts his journey with his son, slowly becoming the one and only Santa Claus. Scott's dry and unamused humor about the whole situation makes the movie instantly loveable. His son loves the idea of his father being Santa Claus, but Scott refuses to believe it's all real and insists that it was only a dream, until it begins to affect his everyday life. This movie takes the idea of Christmas Miracles all the way and sets the perfect jolly atmosphere.

Every family has special films they watch each Christmas, and hopefully this article has introduced you to a new film to add to your old list!



PULLING OUT OF AFGHANISTAN

BY: JENNA WOLTHUIS

After nearly 20 years of U.S. involvement in Afghanistan, President Biden announced we were officially pulling all U.S. troops out. At first this announcement gained much support from the U.S. population. However, in August 2021, that support turned into anger; practically overnight. President Biden had left behind billions of dollars' worth of military equipment. He also neglected to get every last American out of Afghanistan, which means they are left stranded in the hands of the Taliban where they will more than likely be killed. But we ended the war... right?

On September 11, 2001, four commercial airliners were hijacked by an Islamic extremist group named Al Qaeda. Two planes collided with the World Trade Center towers, one hit the Pentagon, and the other was repossessed by the passengers and crashed into a field. Almost 3,000 people died and many more were injured. President Bush immediately retaliated. American troops landed in Afghanistan on October 7, 2001, with the mission to eliminate the extremist groups.

In April of 2021, President Joe Biden announced we would be pulling out of Afghanistan. Joy quickly became sadness and anger as America realized that the withdrawal was turning into a nightmare. An Islamic extremist group named the Taliban quickly took over Afghanistan within days of the U.S. leaving and all of our military equipment was left behind for the taking. This includes American tanks, drones, MRAPs, Humvees, helicopters, airplanes, rockets, artillery systems, and thousands of guns and ammunition. Billions of dollars' worth of equipment was simply left behind at the expense of American taxpayers.

The Taliban was able to learn how to work the equipment within days. Videos of them standing amidst hundreds of guns went viral. Perhaps the most horrifically shocking video was a video of a man hanging by the neck, from a helicopter being flown by the Taliban. The Taliban have continued their killings, often dragging people out of their homes, and shooting them. In the first five days of August, there were reportedly 173 Afghans killed, however exact numbers are unknown because Taliban leaders refuse to confirm the casualties.

U.S. troops were also treated like garbage, being forced to clean the bases they were leaving behind, in preparation for the Taliban. A member of the U.S. forces in a text to a friend said, "[We] had to clean up the airport for the Taliban. Sad how they told us that's what our fallen brothers and sisters would have wanted. Left a sour taste in many of our mouths."

On August 30, a video of Major General Chris Donahue walking out of Afghanistan was released to the world. It was announced that he was the last American to leave Afghanistan, however it is estimated that more than 200 Americans are still trapped in Afghanistan. There are also thousands of American allies that we simply left behind to be killed. President Biden has neglected many in the rapid exodus out of the country.

One of the biggest impacts of the Taliban's takeover

is Sharia Law. Sharia Law is the Islamic law, which states that women are not to work, be educated, or show much more than their eyes. They also cannot travel without a male, or be outspoken in their opinions. It is a sad time for women in Afghanistan. There are



many groups for educating girls in Afghanistan, most notably the Afghan Girls Robotic Team. They made the headlines in 2017 when they came to America for a robotics competition. The future for the program is bleak, and while some of the girls safely made it to Qatar, there are others that are still in Afghanistan trying to stay off the Taliban's radar.

On August 26, amidst the chaos in the Kabul airport, a suicide bomber detonated a bomb. 60 Afghans died, and 13 U.S. troops were also killed all while thousands more flooded the airport seeking airfare out. Sgt. Johanny Rosario Pichardo, Sgt. Nicole L. Gee, Staff Sgt. Darin T. Hoover, Cpl. Hunter Lopez, Cpl. Daegan W. Page, Cpl. Humberto A. Sanchez, Lance Cpl. David L. Espinoza, Lance Cpl. Jared M. Schmitz, Lance Cpl. Rylee J. Mccollum, Lance Cpl. Dylan R Merola, Lance Cpl. Kareem M. Nikoui, Navy Corpsman Maxton W. Soviak, and Staff Sgt. Ryan C. Knauss all bravely gave their lives while helping the Afghan people and serving our country to the best of their ability.

The desperation to get out still ensued. Videos of people running alongside the outgoing airplanes flood-

Mistreatment of Veterans

BY: HAILEE PEDRAZA

Every day thousands of people enlist to join the armed forces. Many volunteer with the idea of serving their country and look forward to the promised benefits of free college, good housing, financial and healthcare benefits, and so much more. However, many don't realize the effects that combat duty will have on them. Frontline duty can be horrific, and those scars can last a lifetime. According to the Pew Research Center, veterans make up only 10% of our total population, but that equates to over 19 million people. But unfortunately, many of these innocent people come back with, if they come back at all, is severe trauma, disabilities, and none of the support system they were promised.

One of the biggest pieces of evidence of veteran mistreatment is the abhorrent homeless population. According to the Military Times, a veteran and armed forces newspaper, the homeless population is about 6% of the total national population, but veterans make up for over 8% of that population. According to Oregon.gov, the official website for Oregon, there are over 1,300 homeless veterans just here in our state.

Veterans are also more likely to die while being homeless. As stated by the scholarly Sage Journals, young and middle-aged veterans are twice as likely to die while being homeless than their non-homeless peers.

Due to the trauma veterans' face while deployed, many come back with PTSD, addiction issues, and a deep feeling of loss and hopelessness. This has been happening for centuries, but has increased in America over the last 20 years as so many of our soldiers had to serve multiple front line tours of duty. In just one study they found that over 76% of veterans had a mental health diagnosis, and another 47% had a drug-related disorder. Almost 40% of just one study had both a drug and mental health disorder. Veterans are also at an astoundingly higher rate of suicide than non-veterans. According to the National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report, veteran suicide rates increased by 0.6% from 2017 to 2018, and veterans make up over 12% of the national suicide rates. From 2008 to 2017, over 6,000 veterans died by suicide per year. Veterans come back with truckloads of disabilities too. Missing limbs, hearing and vision loss, mental incognizance, and so much more. This just shows how deeply serving in armed forces effects people, and how unprepared our government is in giving them the help that they need.

The best thing we can do as citizens is support those who served. Sweet Home and Linn County have tons of resources. There is a

SEE MISTREATMENT OF VETERANS PG 15



Personal Relations and Conflicts

BY: JADA AUTRY

Technology in today's society has advanced so rapidly to a point that is beyond comprehension. People have become attached



to their devices, whether that be smart phones, computers, or TV's in their living room. Smart phones have many apps that can be installed, and most of them are social media platforms. As you may know, social media has been around for a while, specifically since 1997 when the first platform "SixDegrees.com" was made. Since then, all of these social media platforms have had time to evolve and become more developed. Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook, Twitter, and many more platforms can be used to spread true or false information, post pictures, and message or "DM" users of these apps.

Since the pandemic, these platforms have been used nonstop to post about people's daily lives and message others to make plans. Although it may have been nice to stay inside and be alone while talking to people, talking through a screen creates more problems than talking face to face. When you are dealing with people face to face, one on one, the reactions to your comments are immediate and you are much more aware of hurting someone's feelings, or how

other people will perceive you. Building relationships through social media allows people to be more fake, not as honest, and even

SEE PERSONAL RELATIONS AND CONFLICTS PG 16

Puppet President

BY: JENNA WOLTHUIS

In November of 2020, the U.S. population voted that Joe Biden would be the 46th president of the United States of America. This news was not handled well by the conservative party, who had warned many that Biden was not who he said he was. President Biden is 78 years old, and in speeches, interviews, and videos, it is obvious something is not quite right. It is also clear that he is reading off a script, and it is known that when he goes off script there is always something that abruptly cuts him off. This raises the question, who really is controlling America? Is it a senile old man, or is there someone that is using him as a puppet to push their own agenda?

At 78 years old Joe Biden is the oldest president in the history of the United States. Many speculate that he has a mental illness that is affecting his performance as president. They also claim that because of this 'mental illness' he is easily controlled and the people suffering the most from this are conservative Americans. Despite all this, the president still has not gotten a medical checkup. In May of 2021 he announced that he would be getting a checkup later this year, but it has still not happened.

At the G-7 conference reporters had to be pre-selected with pre-selected questions. That is when he said, "I'm sorry, I'm going to get in trouble with staff if I don't do this the right way." He was clearly going off of a script of prepared responses so that nothing could get messed up. Conservative media picked up on this very quickly and raised the question, "Who is behind the teleprompters?" Joe Biden chose Kamala Harris as his running mate for the 2020 election. Their victory made her the first female vice president and highest ranking woman in America. Her views are very liberal and while she publically states that she is working for the good of all Americans, behind the scenes she works only for the benefit of the Democratic Party; pushing policies that make more Americans dependent on the government, and thus more loyal to the Democrats. She is in the perfect position to manipulate our president.

Another very powerful woman and politician is Nancy Pelosi. Pelosi has been the Speaker of the House since 2019 and has been the Democratic Party leader since 2003. Nancy and her husband have an estimated net worth of \$315 million dollars. They own several properties, and have done very well investing their money... And making sure the companies they invest in do well. In 2007 the CEO of VISA came to her and her husband with a killer deal. Nancy and her husband Paul bought between one and five million dollars' worth of VISA stocks. After that, Pelosi worked to block any bills that would hurt the company from passing through the House. If she hasn't been given the chance already, she would not hesitate to control the president to fit her own selfish wants and needs.

Nancy and Kamala are just two of the many far left politicians that are vying for the President's power. Alabama Senator Tommy Tuberville said in a news interview, "You can tell President Biden is being controlled by the far-left of the Democratic Party." He then goes on to say, "They push their agenda, if they don't like what is going on, they're going to try to get somebody to do it by some other means." Even Biden's press secretary, Jen Psaki, is slow to share any details about who is advising the President and has been known to either avoid direct questions or simply change the subject rather than answer the question. It is clear that the President is being controlled, but it is unclear what the American people are going to do about it. In a poll done by Trafalgar, 56% of 1000 randomly selected voters said they believed the President is being controlled. Breaking it down further; 31.7% of the Democrat voters selected and 83% of the Republican voters selected said that the President was being controlled. Biden's approval rating as of September is 43% and steadily continues to drop. America is a world superpower, yet is seemingly is being controlled by a 78 year old puppet with dementia. Hopefully, the American people will be moved to flip Congress in the 2022 elections and give the Republicans the power to cut the puppet masters' strings.



Mistreatment of Veterans

FROM PG 14

Lane county based Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program, or HVRP, who have extended their resources to our county. They give support and help homeless veterans find employment and new careers, helping them reintegrate and get off the streets. There's also a Veteran Housing service run by Community Services Consortium. They provide meals and shelter for the entire Linn-Benton area. For Sweet Home, they have housing and meals on the 2nd and 4th Friday of every month at the United Methodist Church, and meal time is from 5 pm to 6 pm. There is an employment specialist for veterans too, who help anyone at risk of homelessness, lack high school diplomas and certificates, veterans who have been incarcerated, low income, and to Vietnam-Era Veterans. Lastly, there is a Veteran Transportation Assistance Program, or VTAP, who provide transportation to any veteran that needs medical assistance and has a Veterans Administration card. This is a great way to support disabled veterans and less privileged veterans. Veterans are picked up from their residence and transported to the Albany VA Medical Facility. All of these resources can have a positive impact on veterans' lives and desperately need community support. If you would like to help, please consider donating either your time or money to help veterans in need.

As we all take the day off to celebrate Veterans Day, maybe we should take the time to remember all those who have served, and continue to serve. We should offer our support and charity, but we should also demand that our government and military leaders provide these victims of war the support that they were promised.

Pulling Out of Afghanistan

FROM PG. 13

ed the internet. Some people climbed into the landing gear, and got crushed upon takeoff. Others clung to the side of the plane only to fall off hundreds of feet in the air. Pictures of packed airplanes also circled the internet.

The recent events in Afghanistan have shocked not only America, but the whole world. Many have sent secret missions or funded secret missions to get Americans and American allies out of the country before the Taliban could reach them. These horrific events could have easily been avoided, but Biden created a rushed procedure that created a panic. Sadly, this will not end anytime soon. As the Taliban enforces their Sharia Law, life as many Afghans know it will drastically change and more men and women will be murdered.



Personal Relations and Conflicts

FROM PG 14

cruel. It entices you into believing that we can build real relationships without having the responsibility of being honest and real.

Since school has started, things have felt a little off while wandering the hallways. Past friends are now enemies, teachers and people you used to talk to don't even recognize you, and random students you don't know are talking to you acting like they've known you forever. However, your so-called friends you have now don't even look you in the eyes anymore; they just give you a quick glance and walk away. What happened?

Since people weren't face to face, they thought that they could get away with so many things online. Those things being, making people upset and thinking that they're better than them. So much drama is happening between almost everybody, and trying to deal with these situations has been hard on people's mental health and their ability to focus. Even with school now in session, it's still happening. The main problem is that people are getting so consumed by their egos that they don't realize how they make others feel, and how ugly it truly makes them look.

Bullying and harassment has been on the rise lately, especially online. During the pandemic, online harassment got severely worse. According to an organization that tracks online harassment known as Light, there has been about a 70% increase in cyber bullying in just a few months. Social media platforms have been used to spread rumors and use abusive language among children. Since kids were stuck at home while their parents and guardians were at work, there was a decreased amount of adult supervision online. Although some parents also had to get quarantined and work from home, parents were so focused and stressed about their work that even though they checked up on their children's homework, they didn't think about checking their social status. Now that we have to see each other more in person, we are seeing the results of online bullying play out even more intensely as we deal with each other face to face.

So what can we do about it? First of all, maybe we should take a step back and stop letting social media control how we view ourselves. I've heard people say that they like themselves better on social media than they do in real life. That's not a good place to be. Social media is not the real world, and if we put too much our self-image into to it; we will be disappointed. What really matters is the relationships that we have in real life. It's the appreciation and respect that we have for each other that really counts. With that said, even in the real world we need to remember that we can't let others define us. The real solution lies within us. If you are truly trying to be the best person you can be for the benefit of others and yourself, you will not only find better friends, but a better you. Don't waste your time and energy on people who haven't shown any appreciation or respect for the things you've done for them. That may be harsh, but it's true. And don't waste your time on trying to get revenge; you will only give them more power over your life if you do.

With all of the problems that we are seeing in our personal relationship and conflicts, we need to remind ourselves to stay strong, be humble, and treat others the way you want to be treated yourself. It may sound cringe worthy, but it works.



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SPORTS

VOLLEYBALL

BY: SAMUEL ADAMS



Our volleyball team had an amazing season. They had tough competition, at one point they were in a three-way tie for first place in the league. Everyone put in a lot of effort to get to State. While there have been a couple of issues

with missing players, this has not phased the team, which has shown strong determination and adaptability throughout the season.

Coach Hutchins commented on the challenges the team faced, "This year has been filled with hard work and a lot of adversity. We have had kids quarantined and missing games for various reasons. We lost a lot of seniors with many years of varsity experience." Thankfully, the players stepped up to this challenge. All of them have a strong work ethic and determination, especially those who started this season without a lot of experience. Coach Hutchins finished by stating, "I am very proud of the girls in the volleyball program. They work hard in practice and in the offseason to improve their skills and are willing to step in and help their teams."

According to volleyball player Zoe Opperman, "The best part of the season was playing Junction City and McLoughlin in our state play-in games. It was really cool to see what happened when we played our very best, and it was an awesome experience to know that we made it to the top eight." Opperman continued by saying, "The challenges of the season have made the team more

cohesive." They have had to change how they play and what position everyone is in many times, and it has required strong communication to pull it off. The team has grown a lot closer over the season due to the challenges they faced.

The team went to Cascade on November 2nd to play their quarter-finals game. Lastly, Zoe Opperman said, "Everybody was really excited to play this game, and you could feel the tension and excitement in the air when we walked into the Cascade gym. Unfortunately, we were not playing our best that night, which ended our season. It was a hard loss, but I know we all gained so much from this season." The Sweet Home Volleyball team has had a lot of success, and while there have been a lot of struggles and some losses, the team has come together to battle these adversities. The volleyball team has gained a lot of experience and put in an incredible amount of effort, making it to the first level of the State Playoffs. Go Huskies!



SPORTS

Men's Soccer

BY: MEAGAN BAHAM

The men's team stepped it up this season with an amazing victory. In their third game of the season, they pulled through and won their first game in four years! The game they won was played against Elmira on September 8. They beat Elmira 4-1. Kaylub Christman got the momentum going with a break away past the defensive line and a shot into the bottom corner that the keeper couldn't stop. The next two goals were scored by Colton Savri, and the team finished strong with their fourth goal scored by Ben Tolman. Captain Kaylub Christman explains, "I was surprised when we won, but our team played well and worked hard, we deserved the win." The team was excited to get their first win in years and it set them up for a hopeful season.

The team has been working hard all season and the team captains have been motivated to get the new players up to speed. All three of the captains, Evan Towry, Macks Klumph, and Kaylub Christman, had to step up as leaders to guide the new players to become better and smarter at soccer. As Macks Klumph explains, "The majority of our team have never played soccer before, but they are picking up quickly." The men's team had to do a lot of recruiting to keep the program going and that resulted in a lot of inexperienced players. Despite the lack of experience, the team has played well together resulting in many goals and tighter games throughout the season.

The season has been challenging, but the hard work the team has put in has been rewarding. The progress the new players have made, and the leaders the experienced players have become, has been an accomplishment in itself. By the first game, they doubled their goals they have scored in comparison to last season. Also, the team was able to beat their streak and pull through with not only one win, but also a win against East Linn. The team has improved a lot this season and has enormous potential to continue growing. Great job this year, go Huskies!



WOMEN'S SOCCER

BY: JENNA WOLTHUIS

This season, the women's soccer team started off strong and with a lot of excitement. Last year was a short season which left many of the players disappointed and hungry for more. The seniors came back to the team ready to lead, practice, and compete. They also gained a lot of talented freshman with many years of play under their belt. The team has also been recruiting to have a JV team so that the program will stay afloat.

There are eight seniors on the team, Meagan Baham, Maddie Harris, Chloe Fairchild, Kami Hart, Andra Gordon, Isabel Sayer, Jaiden Denuell, and Jenna Wolthuis. Despite the large number of seniors, the freshman and sophomores have been a huge asset to the team. As Jenna Wolthuis explains, "Tierney Clarno is a wicked and smart defender, Amelia Sullens is fast and has some talent, and Peyton Markel is a solid player who reads the field very well." She continued to comment about sophomore Rylee Markel saying, "She's pretty dang good, she is the natural leader out of the sophomores and at times way more mature than I am." In the middle of the season Rylee got a concussion, her injury put a hole in the center of the field that was hard to fill. However, she healed and is now playing better than ever!

The seniors have gone through a lot over the last four years, from the intimidation of being on a varsity team all the way to becoming a leader only a couple years later. Chloe Fairchild talks about soccer through high school saying, "Freshman year I was intimidated and scared, but now that I have played all through high school I have definitely come out of my shell and learned to lead." She goes on saying, "I'm also enjoying the sport a lot more since I get to play with all the other seniors. We have all become close over the last four years and it has been a lot of fun." The tone of the team is really positive and fun to be involved with. The seniors have been making sure to keep the team full of life so that soccer would always be a fond memory. The women's soccer team competes in a very competitive league and this year is no exception. They have been working hard to have a successful season and many of them have found joy in the little things throughout the season. The players continue to work hard and build friendships with their teammates. Great job Huskies!



SPORTS

CROSS COUNTRY

BY: MEAGAN BAHAM

Sports are back to normal and many athletes are excited to compete in a full season once again. However, there have been many setbacks from the last season that are affecting Cross Country now. The team has many returning athletes, but they are still lacking in runners. Both the athletes and coaches are working hard to get the team ready for Districts and State. Although the team has a lot of talent they still are struggling with getting enough runners for competitions. Despite this, they are making the most of what they have and each athlete is competing at their best.

The cross country team had a lot of seniors graduate last year which made it difficult to have a full team. All sports teams have seen a decrease in the number of athletes they normally have, but cross country has been struggling the most. There are only two women on the team, Paige Chafin and Lydia Wright, they have been working hard to improve their times, but they can't gain points unless there's three more female competitors. Lydia explains, "We don't have enough people so both the girl's and men's teams haven't been able to score points yet. Cross Country is fun, but it's hard to find motivation when you can't compete to win." Despite the lack of runners, they still run to the best of their ability and make their families and coaches proud. Aiden Shamek and Nathaniel Coleman are the two returning seniors who have helped lead and motivate the runners on the team. Nathaniel goes into detail about the season saying, "I have to step up as a leader to motivate the team and create a fun environment for them." Aiden and Nathaniel are highly competitive in cross country and have been helping people to be just as competitive. The runners that



have competed this year have done really well. Nathaniel Coleman explains, "The season has been going pretty good, there have been a lot of PRs and Lydia dropped four minutes off her time." This is a huge improvement in cross country and the rest of the team is improving alongside her. The cross country team is struggling with having enough people to gain points in competition, but that doesn't stop them from improving. Every day each athlete works hard to improve their personal record. Each runner is getting better and better the more they practice and compete. The new personal records we will see coming out of these athletes will be nothing less than astounding.

SHHS Cheer

BY: FAITH BAKER



The Sweet Home High School Cheer Team is in the midst of their season, showing their Husky Pride at games and looking forward to upcoming competitions. Like all other sports, the Cheer Team has been struggling with missing cheerleaders due to quarantine restrictions. Cheer relies heavily on attendance

and absences can cause frequent setbacks. Even with Covid-19 making sports difficult for the players and coaches, the cheer team has continued to prosper.

This year there are 14 varsity, and 16 junior varsity cheerleaders. The team is being led by Coach Amber Rosa and two captains, Ava Royer and TarahMae Meadors, who both have a strong love for cheer and competition. TarahMae notably shared that, "Having a big group of girls who all want the same things, and are all working towards the same goal... it's like a family." Part of being a captain is taking the time to understand individual cheerleaders and understanding how to be patient with them. Ava mentioned that part of being a captain is, "...being understanding of everything.", which positively shows that being compassionate for the team can have a great effect on its players. TarahMae and Ava both have many responsibilities as captains; attending meetings, taking care of equipment, and learning cheers are all important to the team's growth. Unfortunately, this year is both TarahMae and Ava's senior year, their great influence on the team will be missed and appreciated.

On November 4th they compete at All-State, wish them the best of luck and show them your Husky support!

SPORTS

FOOTBALL

BY: IVY DEWITTE

Fall has begun, but our sports of the season are sadly coming to an end, including the football season. But football, like every sport, is not just about winning or losing. As Varsity Head Coach Ryan Adams said, "Do your job, and just take the opportunity that we have that game to go out there and show what we have been working for. Show what we have been doing in practice and in the weight room, and even early morning meetings. It is an opportunity to show your friends and family, people around town, how much of a hard worker you are. Take that with everything it is worth, and go have fun. The biggest thing is, 'Do your job and you will be successful.'"

Football is not just "A sport", it is the sport of battle. You go out on that field, and if you only try your hardest, you've failed. You have to "Do your Hardest." In order to be successful, you must do your job, like Coach Adams said. Even when on the sideline you are participating in the game; you are there to support your team and help them to see what they may not see. Football has been called the ultimate team sport



and because of that it gives its players the chance to make an unbreakable bond that will last a lifetime.

This year's season was filled with challenges. Coach Adams commented that the most difficult part of the year was dealing with missing players from the Covid protocols. Even with these challenges, the Huskies were able to post a 4-6 record with big wins over North Marion and Newport, and tight wins over St. Joseph's and Woodburn. While for many seniors the match against Cascade was their final game, but we wish them good luck and know that they will carry the Husky spirit with them for the rest of their lives.

Despite the tough losses this year, Coach Adams is very hopeful for next year's football squad. There will be a large contingent of returning juniors and many younger players got the valuable experience of playing at the Varsity level. We are all proud of effort put forth by our football players this year and we look forward to a great season next year! Go Huskies!